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ムコンバイナ105とを有する。この中間結像面102は、観察者が平面の虚像107を観察できるように、歪曲した面で構成されている。また、プリズムシステム103およびリーレンズ104の光軸と外界の光景106より出射される水平の外界光106aとのなす角度θ<sub>1</sub>は、58°に設定され、ホログラムコンバイナ105の法線軸LXとリーレンズ104の光軸とのなす角度θ<sub>2</sub>は、即ち、リーレンズ104からの表示光101aのホログラムコンバイナ105への入射角θ<sub>3</sub>は、27°。

7.6°に設定され、ホログラムコンバイナ105の法線軸LXとリーレンズ104からの表示光101aの回折光101bおよび外界光106aの透光光106bとのなす角度、即ち、反射角θ<sub>4</sub>は30.24°に設定されている。また、ホログラムコンバイナ105は傾斜角θ<sub>5</sub>として、59.7°だけ傾けて固定されていない

バイザー上に設置されている。

[0006] 以上HMD10において、画像表示面101に表示された画像の表示光101aは、プリズムシステム103およびリーレンズ104を通過することにより中間結像面102の中間像は、発光光によって形成される。中間結像面102の中間像は、発光光となってレンズ作用を有するホログラムコンバイナ105によって、反射角θ<sub>4</sub>を通過して中間像として結果が得られる。光景107の外界光106は、ホログラムコンバイナ105を通して透光光106bとして観察者の眼Eに入射する。従って、観察者は、無限遠にCRTの画像表示面101からの画像表示光101aに基づく平面の虚像107を外界の光景106に重ねて観察することができる。このとき、表示光101aの回折光101bおよび外界光106aの透光光106bを透過しない。

[0007] [発明が解決しようとする課題]しかし、従来のHMD10においては、平面の虚像107を得るためにプリズムシステム103およびリーレンズ104からなる複雑なレンズ系を用いているため、ディスプレイが大型化するという欠点がある。また、解像度を上げるためにCRTを大きくする必要があるが、CRTを大きくすると、プリズムシステム103およびリーレンズ104からなる複雊なレンズ系も大きくなり、スペースの制約より解像度の向上に限界があるといつて欠点がある。また、ホログラムコンバイナ105は、単色用のものであるため、カラー対応がないという欠点がある。

[0008] 本発明の目的は、小型で高解像度のヘッドマウントディスプレイを提供することにある。また、本発明の他の目的は、カラー化が容易なヘッドマウントディスプレイを提供することにある。

[0009] [課題を解決するための手段]本発明は、上記目的を達成するため、画像表示光を出射する画像表示手段と、前

記画像表示手段からの前記画像表示光を縮小して出射する前記出射部から前記画像表示光を回折あるいは反射させて前記装着者からの前記画像表示光に基づく虚像を初期光学手段を備えたことを特徴とするヘッドマウントディスプレイを提供する。

### [0010]

[発明の実施の形態]図1は、本発明の第1の実施形態に係るヘッドマウントディスプレイ(以下「HMD D」という。)を示し、同図(a)はその側面図、同図(b)はその光学系を示す図である。このHMD1は、頭部に装着されるヘッドマウント2を備えたヘッドマウントDであり、ヘルメット2の前方部2aの内部には、表示光3aを出射する画像表示手段としてのバックライト付きの液晶ディスプレイ(LCD)3と、LCD3からの表示光3aを縮小して出射するファイバーオプティックスフレート(FOP)4などが収容されている。これらのLCD3およびFOP4は、ホルダ5によって前方部2aに保持されている。また、視鏡EおよびFOP4から表示光3aを回折させて回折光3bとして装着者の眼Eに導く頭部光学手段としてのホログラムコンバイナ6は、ホルダ5によって前方部2aに取り付けられている。

[0011] LCD3は、例えば、1200×2400

の2.8万画素を備え、2.8インチの4.0mm×5.6

mmのサイズを有している。なお、画像表示手段として

は、他に、反射型のLCD、ELディスプレイ、プラズ

マディスプレイ、あるいは、マイクロマンシングによっ

て作製されたマイクロ可動ミラーを用いたディスプレイ等を用いることができるが、これらの中でLCDが小型化して好ましい。

[0012] FOP4は、LCD3からの表示光3aを所定の縮小率、例えば1/3に縮小して出射するよう

構成されている。すなわち、FOP4は、入射側の大さ

が6.4mm、出射側の大さが2.6mmのデーター比3:1の

形状を有する7.920万本の光ファイバー40を束ねて

構成されている。また、このFOP4は、入射端面4a

がLCD3に密着し、入射端面4aのサイズがLCD3

と同一の4.0mm×5.6mm、出射端面4bのサイズが

約13.2mm×18.8mmとなっている。また、出

射端面4bは、装着者がホログラムコンバイナ6の前方

に形成される虚像9が平面で観察できるように歪曲

された面となっている。13bに分けられる。ハーフミラー1-3を通過

したビーム13aは、第2のミラー1-2Bで曲げられた

後、第1の拡大レンズ1-4Aで発散波に変換された後、

コリメータレンズ1-5によって平面波に変換される。ハ

ーフミラー1-3で反射したもう一方のビーム13bは、

第3のミラー1-2Cで曲げられた後、第2の拡大レンズ

1-4Bによって発散波に変換される。その発散波は、発

する方法を述べたが、収束波と発散波で作製することができる。

[0017] 次に、第1の実施形態に係るHMD1の動作を説明する。図示しない頭部供給装置から頭部信号に基づいて、画面表示手段としての表示光3aを出射する。この表示光3aによって屈折光3bとして装着者の眼Eに屈折して結像する。出射端面4bの中間像面4bに中間像として結像する。すなわち、表示光3aのホログラムコンバイナ6は、ホログラム膜61と、第1の光軸61a及び第2の光軸61bとに分離される。第1の光軸61aに対し、例えば、58°の角度θ<sub>1</sub>、第2の光軸61bに対して、58°の角度θ<sub>2</sub>に設定されている。なお、ホログラムコンバイナ6は、非反射光学系6が配置されている。このホログラム膜61は、視鏡E導く頭部光学手段としてのホログラムコンバイナ6によって屈折光3bにされて装着者の眼Eに導く。視鏡Eは、ホログラムコンバイナ6によって屈折光3bとして装着者の眼Eに導かれる。視鏡Eの回折光3bおよび外界光8aの透光光6が配置されている。このホログラムコンバイナ6は、視鏡E導く頭部光学手段としてのホログラムコンバイナ6によって屈折光3bとして装着者の眼Eに導かれる。すなわち、表示光3aを有するホログラムコンバイナ6によって屈折光3bにされて装着者の眼Eに導かれる。視鏡Eは、ホログラムコンバイナ6によって屈折光3bにされて装着者の眼Eに導かれる。この表示光3aは、LCD3から出射端面4bの中間像面4bが中間結像面9になる。

(i) FOP4の出射端面4bが中間結像面9におけるレンズを使用して中間結像面9を形成する必要がある。そこで、ヘッドマウント2に、LCD3、FOP4およびホログラムコンバイナ6を内蔵させることができることを示す。

[0018] 次に、上述した第1の実施形態に係るHMD1の効果を説明する。

(ii) FOP4の出射端面4bが中間結像面9における

レンズを使用して中間結像面9を形成する必要がある。そこで、ヘッドマウント2に、LCD3、FOP4およびホログラムコンバイナ6を内蔵させることができることを示す。

[0019] 次に、LCD3から表示光3aをFOP4によって縮小するため、HMD1の小型化が図れる。

(iii) LCD3から表示光3aを用いることができる

ことから、高解像度の虚像9を表示することができることを示す。

(iv) FOP4の出射端面4bが虚像9の位置を補正する

形状となっているので、平面の虚像9を観察することができる。

(v) 本HMD1を航空機用のHMDに適用した場合は、

外縁と飛行情報を開拓することができ、自動飛行

に示す所定の位置の場合は、外縁と交通情報を同時に観察することができる。飛行中あるいは走行中に優れた識別性を発揮することができる。

(vi) HMDを示し、同図(a)はその側面図、同図(b)はその

光学系を示す図である。このHMD1は、ヘッドバンド

20によって頭部に装着されるゴーグル21を備えた

ゴーグル型HMDのものであり、ゴーグル21の上部2

1aの内部には、視鏡Eaに直交する表示光を出射する

画像表示手段としてのバックライト付きのLCD3と、

LCD3からの表示光3aを縮小して出射するFOP4

とが配置されている。これらのLCD3およびFOP4は、ホールドによって上部21aに保持されている。また、規制Ea上には、被験者の眼Eに凹面に向けて配置された拡大機能を有する屈折光学手段としての凹面ハーフミラー6-2と、被験者の眼Eaに対して45度の角度で配置され、FOP4からの表示光3aを凹面ハーフミラー6-2へ反射させてその凹面ハーフミラー6-2でさらに反射した表示光を被験者の眼Eに導く屈折光学手段としてのハーフミラー6-3とが配置されている。凹面ハーフミラー6-2は、ゴーグル21の前方の開口部21bに設けられ、ハーフミラー6-3は、前部21bの内部に設けられている。

[0020] LCD3は、ゴーグル21に収容するために、第1の実施の形態よりも小型なサイズ、例えば、60×1200の7万画素を備え、1.4インチの20mm×28mmのサイズを有している。

[0021] FOP4は、入射側の太さが6.4mm、出射側の太さが2.6mmのテープー比3:1の形状を有する19.8万本の光ファイバー4を束ねたものであり、入射端面4aがLCD3に密着し、入射端面4aのサイズがLCD3と同一の2.0mm×2.8mm、出射端面4bのサイズが約6.6mm×9.4mmとなっている。また、FOP4は、第1の実施の形態と同様に、出射端面4bが、被験者が平面の屈折9を観察できるように歪曲動作を説明する。図示しない画像供給装置から画像信号がLCD3に供給されると、LCD3がミクライトに基づいて、画像信号に応じた表示光3aを出射する。この表示光3aは、FOP4によって伝送され、出射端面4bに中間像として結像する。出射端面4bの中間像は、発光部となつてハーフミラー6-3に入射し、その反射光3cがハーフミラー6-3で反射して拡大機能を有する凹面ハーフミラー6-2に入射し、その一部が反射して対面ハーフミラー6-2に入射し、その一部が反射して対面光3dにされ、ハーフミラー6-3を通過して透光3eとして被験者の眼Eに入射する。光景8の外界光8aは、凹面ハーフミラー6-2aおよびハーフミラー6-3を通過して透光8bとして被験者の眼Eに入射する。従って、観察者は、無限遠にLCD3からの表示光3aに基づく拡大された平面の屈折9を外界の光景8に重畳して観察することができる。

[0023] 次に、本発明の第3の実施の形態に係るHMDについて説明する。この第3の実施の形態は、図1に示す第1の実施の形態に係るHMD1をカラー化してものであり、他は第1の実施の形態と同様に構成されている。この第3の実施の形態は、赤(R)、緑(G)、青(B)の三原色光からなる表示光を出射するカラーLCDを用い、R、G、Bの三原色光に対応したホログラムコンバイナ6を用いる。R、G、Bの三原色光に対応したホログラムコンバイナ6を作製するには、図2に示す

すホログラム製作装置10において、He-Neレーザ11の代わりに、R用としてヘリウムキオネンレーザ(632.8nm)を用いてホログラムを記録し、G用としてYAG-SHGレーザ(532nm)を用いてホログラムを記録し、B用としてアルゴンレーザ(488nm)を用いてホログラムを記録する。この第3の実施の形態によれば、小型でありながら、カラーの屈折像を示すことができる。

[0024] なお、本発明は、上記実施の形態に限定されず、種々な形態が可能である。例えば、図3の構成において、凹面ハーフミラー6-2を設けず、FOP4から表示光3aを被験者の眼Eに反射させるように規制Eaに対して45度の角度でハーフミラー6-3を配置してもよい。また、上記実施の形態では、シースルー型について説明が、クローズ型にしてよい。この場合は、外界光が被験者の眼に入らないよう基板の外側の面(LCDから他の表示光が入射する面)と反対の面)に遮光シートを貼つてもよく、ヘルメットやゴーグル等の部材で基板全体を覆つてもよい。また、第1の実施の形態では、基板の外側の面にホログラム膜を形成したが、基板の内側の面に形成してもよい。

[0025] [発明の効果] 以上説明した通り、本発明によれば、光ファイバ束を用いることで、レンズ系を用いなくても所蔵の中間結像面を得ることができるので、小型化が図れる。また、画像表示手段からの画像表示光を光ファイバ束によって縮小しているので、画像数の多い画像表示手段を用いることができる。この結果、高解像度の屈折像を表示することができる。この結果、カラー化が容易となる。

[図面の簡単な説明]

[図1] 本発明の第1の実施の形態に係るHMDを示し、(a)はその前面図、(b)はその光学系を示す図である。

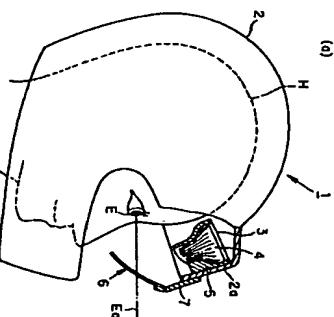
[図2] 第1の実施の形態に係るホログラム製作装置の構成図である。

[図3] 本発明の第2の実施の形態に係るHMDを示し、(a)はその前面図、(b)はその光学系を示す図である。

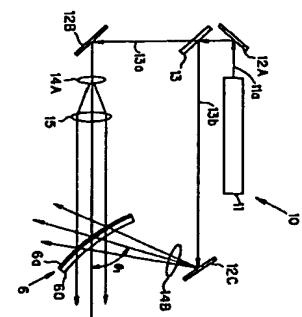
[図4] 従来のHMDの構成図である。

[符号の説明]

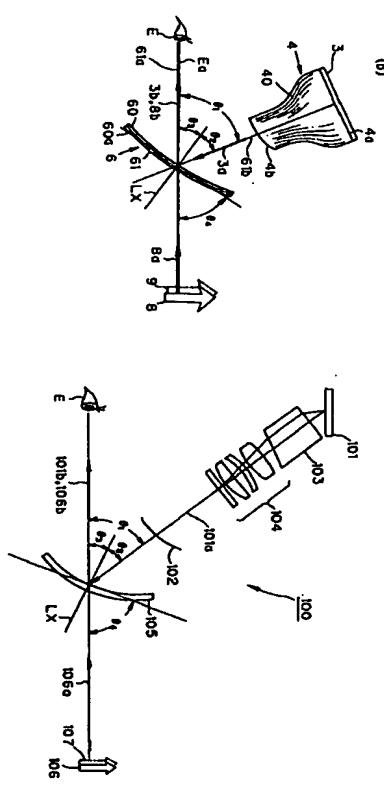
- 1 ヘッドマウンティッドディスプレイ (HMD)
- 2 ヘルメット
- 3 屈折ディスプレイ (LCD)
- 4 ファイバーオプティックスフレート (FOP)
- 4a 入射端面
- 4b 出射端面
- 5 ホルダ
- 6 ホログラムコンバイナ
- 7 取付部材
- 8 光線
- 8a 外界光
- 8b 透過光
- 9 遠景
- 10 ホログラム製作装置
- 11 He-Neレーザ
- 12A, 12B, 12C ミラー
- 13 ハーフミラー
- 14A, 14B 放大レンズ
- 15 コリメータレンズ
- 61 ホログラム膜
- 61a 第1の光軸
- 61b 第2の光軸
- 62 凹面ハーフミラー
- 63 ハーフミラー
- E 眼
- H 頭部



[図1]



[図2]

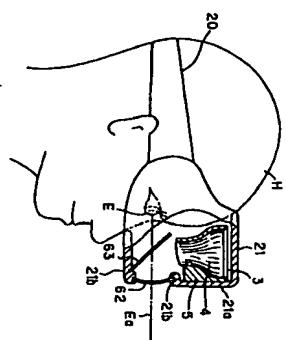


(7)

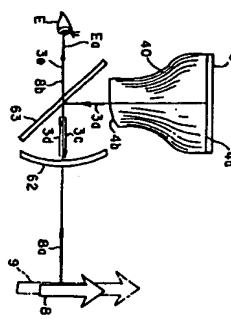
特許平10-319343

[図3]

(a)



(b)



**A Translation of Substantially the Whole of  
Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. H10-319343  
(Laid-Open on December 4, 1998)**

**5 [Title of the Invention]**

Head-Mounted Display

**[Abstract]**

[Object] To provide a compact and high resolution head-mounted display that readily achieves projection of color images.

[Features] If an image signal is fed to an LCD 3 from an image feeder, the LCD 3 emits, in accordance with backlight, display light 3a corresponding to the image signal. The display light 3a is conveyed by an FOP 4 and focused on an exit end face 4b as an intermediate image. The intermediate image formed on the exit end face 4b becomes divergent light, then is converted into diffracted light 3b composed of substantially parallel beams by a hologram combiner 6 having a function as a lens element, and then enters a user's eye E. The external light 8a from a view 8 passes through the hologram combiner 6, and enters the user's eye E as transmitted light 8b. Therefore, the user can infinitely observe a flat virtual image 9 formed in accordance with the display light 3a emitted from the LCD 3 while superimposing it on the outside view 8.

**[Claims]**

[Claim 1] A head-mounted display comprising:  
an image display means for emitting display light;  
a bundle of optical fibers that makes the display light emitted from the image display means exit from an exit end face while reducing it; and  
an in-front-of-eye optical means that directs the display light exited from the exit end face of the bundle of optical fibers to the user's eye by diffracting or reflecting it so as to permit a user to observe a virtual image formed in accordance with the display light.

[Claim 2] A head-mounted display as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the in-front-of-eye optical means directs external light to the user's  
eye.

5 [Claim 3] A head-mounted display as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the in-front-of-eye optical means is provided with a substrate made  
of transparent or semitransparent glass, plastics, or the like, and a hologram film  
formed on a principal plane of the substrate.

10 [Claim 4] A head-mounted display as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the in-front-of-eye optical means is obliquely arranged relative to a  
visual axis of the user's eye at 45°, and directs the image light exited from the  
bundle of optical fibers to the user's eye by reflecting it.

15 [Claim 5] A head-mounted display as claimed in claim 4,  
wherein the in-front-of-eye optical means is provided with a concave mirror  
concave to the user's eye, and a mirror obliquely arranged relative to the visual axis  
of the user's eye at 45° that reflects the image light exited from the bundle of optical  
fibers toward the concave mirror in order to direct the image light reflected on the  
concave mirror to the user's eye.

20 [Claim 6] A head-mounted display as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the bundle of optical fibers includes the exit end face having a  
predetermined shape suitable for correcting aberrations of a virtual image.

[Claim 7] A head-mounted display as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the bundle of optical fibers has an incident end face closely  
attached to the image display means.

25 [Claim 8] A head-mounted display as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the bundle of optical fibers is composed of a larger number of  
optical fibers than pixels of the image display means.

[Claim 9] A head-mounted display as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the image display means emits color display light.

30 [Claim 10] A head-mounted display as claimed in claim 3,  
wherein the image display means emits color display light, and the hologram

film is formed by recording a hologram in accordance with the color display image.

[Claim 11] A head-mounted display as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the image display means is realized as a liquid crystal display, an  
EL display, a plasma display, or a display using a micro-variable mirror made by a  
5 micromachining method.

[Claim 12] A head-mounted display as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the image display means, the bundle of optical fibers, and the in-  
front-of-eye optical means are equipped to a goggle or helmet.

10 [Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention]

The present invention relates to a head-mounted display such as goggle- or helmet-type, and more particularly to a head-mounted display that is compact and  
15 high resolution.

[0002]

[Prior Art]

As a compact image display that permits observation of images while being mounted on a head, for example, a head-mounted display (HMD) is widely known.  
20 In an HMD, an image display portion composed of an image display device such as a liquid crystal display (LCD), and an image transmission portion comprising a lens element and a mirror having an aberration correcting function and a magnifying function are arranged in front of an observer's eye. And the image display portion and the image transmission portion are fixed on a head with a mounting tool such  
25 as a belt. If a dynamic image is displayed on the image display device of the image display portion, owing to the aberration correcting function and the magnifying function of the lens element and the mirror, the displayed dynamic image is projected on a large virtual screen at a place easy to see, and then is observed by a user.

30 [0003]

Several HMDs of this type have been developed and manufactured including a display for use in an airplane for displaying flight information such as its altitude and speed, and a display for use in a personal theater for displaying movies, TV games, or images of virtual reality. In recent years, a study for a display for use in 5 a portable computer (wearable computer) has been launched.

[0004]

There are two types of such HMD, namely a see-through type HMD that permits observation of outside, and a close-type HMD that prohibits observation of outside. In a field of artificial reality, in some cases, it is desirable to use a close-10 type HMD; however, for use as a portable display, a see-through type HMD is more desirable generally. In addition to the image display portion and the image transmission portion, the see-through type HMD is provided with a beam combiner having a see-through function. This beam combiner exhibits a strong wavelength selectivity against a specific wavelength, and this makes it possible to reflect or 15 diffract only the light having the specific wavelength. Therefore, it is possible to observe an image while superimposing display light 100% consisting of the specific wavelength on 100% of the external light excluding the specific wavelength.

[0005]

Fig. 4 shows, as an example of conventional HMD, an HMD disclosed in 20 United States Patent No. 5,035,474. This HMD 100 includes a CRT for displaying an image on an image display surface 101, a prism system 103 and a relay lens 104 for imaging image light 101a exited from the image display surface 101 on an intermediate image plane 102, and a hologram combiner for making the display light 101a exited from the intermediate image plane 102 as divergent light become 25 a parallel pencil of rays and enter an observer's eye E. The intermediate image plane 102 is formed as a distorted surface for enabling an observer to observe a flat virtual image 107. The angle  $\theta$ , which the optical axis of the prism system 103 and the relay lens 104 makes with horizontal external light 106a exiting from an external view 106 is set at 58°; the angle formed between the normal line axis LX of 30 the hologram combiner 105 and the optical axis of the relay lens 104, in other

words, the incident angle  $\theta_2$  of the display light 101a entering the hologram combiner 105 from the relay lens 104, is set at  $27.76^\circ$ ; and the angle which the normal line axis LX of the hologram combiner 105 makes with diffracted light 101b of the display light 101a exited from the relay lens 104 and transmitted light 106b of the external light 106a, i.e. a reflection angle  $\theta_3$ , is set at  $30.24^\circ$ . The hologram combiner 105 is obliquely arranged on an unillustrated visor, as an inclination angle  $\theta_4$ , at  $59.7^\circ$ .

[0006]

In the above-mentioned HMD 100, by passing through the prism system 103 and the relay lens 104, the display light 101a emitted from the image displayed on the image display surface 101 is focused on the intermediate image plane 102 as an intermediate image. The intermediate image formed on the intermediate image plane 102 becomes divergent light, then is made to be diffracted light 101b composed of a substantially parallel pencil of rays, and then enters the observer's eye E. The external light 106 of the view 107 passes through the hologram combiner 105, and enters the observer's eye E as transmitted light 106b. Therefore, the observer can infinitely observe a flat virtual image 107 formed in accordance with the display light 101a emitted from the image display surface 107 of a CRT while superimposing it on the external view 106. Here, the diffracted light 106b of the display light 101 and the transmitted light 106a of the external light 106a are not decreased in terms of the quantity of light.

[0007]

#### **[Problems to be Solved by the Invention]**

However, the conventional HMD 100 uses a complicated lens system composed of the prism system 103 and the relay lens 104 for obtaining a flat virtual image 107, and therefore it has disadvantage of becoming unduly large. In order to improve its resolution, the display requires a larger CRT; however, if the CRT becomes larger, the complicated lens system composed of the prism system 103 and the relay lens 104 also becomes larger, and therefore the conventional HMD 30 has disadvantage of having a limitation in improving resolution thereof because of

its spatial restriction. Furthermore, because the hologram combiner 105 is of a single color, it is difficult to offer color images.

[0008]

An object of the present invention is to provide a compact and high-resolution head-mounted display. Another object of the present invention is to provide a head-mounted display readily achieves projection of color images.

[0009]

#### **[Means for Solving the Problem]**

To achieve the above object, the present invention provides a head-mounted display comprising: an image display means for emitting display light; a bundle of optical fibers that makes the display light emitted from the image display means exit from an exit end face while reducing it; and an in-front-of-eye optical means that directs the display light exited from the exit end face of the bundle of optical fibers to the user's eye by diffracting or reflecting it in such a manner that permits a user to observe a virtual image formed in accordance with the display light.

[0010]

#### **[Embodiments of the Invention]**

Figs. 1(a) and 1(b) show a head-mounted display (hereinafter, referred to as an HMD) of a first embodiment of the present invention, in which Fig. 1(a) is a side view thereof and Fig. 1(b) shows the optical system thereof. This HMD 1 is a helmet-type HMD having a helmet 2 mountable on a head. And, inside of a front portion 2a of the helmet 2, a liquid crystal display (LCD) 3 equipped with a backlight that serves as an image display means for emitting display light 3a, and a fiber optics plate (FOP) 4 that emits the display light 3a received from the LCD 3 while reducing it are arranged. The LCD 3 and the FOP 4 are held in the front portion 2a by a holder 5. On a visual axis Ea, a hologram combiner 6 is arranged as an in-front-of-eye optical means that diffracts the display light 3a emitted from the FOP 4 and directs it to the user's eye E as diffracted light 3b. This hologram combiner 6 is attached in the front portion 2a by a attaching member 7.

30 [0011]

For example, the LCD 3 is provided with 2,880,000 pixels ( $1200 \times 2400$ ) and has a size of 2.8-inch (40 mm  $\times$  56 mm). As an image display means, it is also possible to use such as a reflection-type LCD, an EL display, a plasma display, or a display using a micro-variable mirror made by a micromachining method; however, 5 among which, an LCD is the most preferable from the perspective of miniaturizing the display.

[0012]

The FOP 4 is so designed as to emit the display light 3a received from the LCD 3 while reducing it at a predetermined reduction ratio, e.g. 1/3. In other 10 words, the FOP 4 is made by bundling 79,200,000 of optical fibers having the diameters of 6  $\mu\text{m}$  in its incident side and 2  $\mu\text{m}$  in its exit side, of which taper ratio is 3:1. The FOP 4 has an incident end face 4a closely attached to the LCD 3. Here, the size of the incident end face 4a is identical to that of the LCD, namely 40 15 mm  $\times$  56 mm, and the size of the exit end face 4b is 13.2 mm  $\times$  18.8 mm. The exit end face 4b is formed as a distorted surface such as a substantially convex spherical surface for enabling a user to observe a virtual image 9 formed ahead of the hologram combiner 6 as a flat image.

[0013]

The hologram combiner 6 is provided with a transparent or a 20 semitransparent substrate 60 made of glass such as PYREX glass or soda glass, plastics, or the like, and a hologram film 61 formed on the principal surface 60a (e.g. the face opposite to which the display light 3a from the LCD 3 enters) of the substrate 60. The hologram film 61 is made by applying a holographic photosensitive material to the substrate 60 and following the steps described below. 25 As the holographic photosensitive material, it is also possible to use, for example, photopolymer, a photoresistive material, a photochromic material, a photodichromic material, silver salt emulsion, dichromic acid gelatin, dichromate gelatin, plastics, a ferroelectric substance, a magneto-optical material, an electro-optical material, an amorphous semiconductor, or a photorefractive material. A 30 protective coat may be deposited on the surface thereof for protecting the hologram

film 61. As the protective coat, it is possible to use amorphous polyolefine, polycarbonate (PC), polymethyl methacrylate (PMM), perfluoro alkoxide polyethylene (PFA), or the like. In the HMD embodying the present invention, the hologram combiner 6 is concave to the user's eye E; however, it can be a flat surface.

5 [0014]

The hologram film 61 forms a small asymmetric optical system. In other words, the hologram film 61 has a first optical axis 61a coinciding with the visual axis Ea, and a second optical axis 61b inclined to the first optical axis at  $\theta_1$ , for example, 58°. Here, the angle which the normal line axis LX of the hologram 10 combiner 6 makes with the optical axis of the LCD 3 and the FOP 4, in other words, an incident angle  $\theta_2$  of the display light 3a entering the hologram combiner 6 from the FOP 4, is set at, for example, 27.76°; and the angle which the normal line axis LX of the hologram combiner 6 makes with diffracted light 3b of the display light 3a exited from the FOP 4 and transmitted light 8b of the external light 8a, i.e. a 15 reflection angle  $\theta_3$ , is set at, for example, 30.24°. The hologram combiner 6 is obliquely mounted on the helmet 2, as an inclination angle  $\theta_4$ , at 59.7°.

[0015]

Fig. 2 shows a hologram-film-manufacturing device for manufacturing the hologram film 61. The hologram-film-manufacturing device 10 is provided with 20 an He-Ne laser 11, a first, a second, and a third mirror 12A, 12B, and 12C, a half mirror 13, a first and a second magnifying lens 14A and 14B, and a collimator lens 15.

[0016]

First, on the principal surface 60a of the substrate 60, as a holographic 25 photosensitive material, for example, photopolymer 6a is spin-coated. Here, it is possible to form a film of photopolymer 6a having an even thickness distribution by controlling the rotational speed and others. Then, the substrate 60 with the photopolymer 6 formed thereon is disposed in the predetermined area as shown in Fig. 2. If a laser beam 11a is emitted from the He-Ne laser of the hologram-film-manufacturing device, the laser beam 11a is turned its direction by the first mirror 30

12A, and then is split into two beams 13a and 13b by the half mirror 13. The beam 13a passed through the half mirror 13 is turned its direction by the second mirror 12B, then is converted into a divergent wave by the first magnifying lens 14A, and then is converted into a plane wave by the collimator lens 15. The other 5 beam 13b reflected on the half mirror 13 is turned its direction by the third mirror 12C, and is converted into a divergent wave by the second magnifying lens 14B. The divergent wave enters the photopolymer 6a from the back side thereof in a manner such that the angle  $\theta_1$ , formed between the optical axis of the divergent wave and the Z-axis is identical to  $\theta_1$  shown in Fig. 1(b). The beam 13a entering 10 from the front face of the photopolymer 6a and the beam 13b entering from the back side of the photopolymer 6a form interference fringes on the photopolymer 6a. The interference fringes formed on the photopolymer 6a undergoes a developing process for recording a hologram, and thus the hologram film 61 is obtained. Here, 15 a process for manufacturing the hologram film 61 by using a plane wave and a divergent wave is explained; however, it is possible to manufacture it by using a convergent wave and a divergent wave.

[0017]

Then, the operation of the HMD 1 used in the first embodiment will be explained below. If an image signal is fed to the LCD 3 from an unillustrated image feeder, the LCD 3 emits, in accordance with backlight, display light 3a corresponding to the image signal. The display light 3a is conveyed by the FOP 4 and focused on the exit end face 4b as an intermediate image. The intermediate image formed on the exit end face 4b becomes divergent light, then is converted into diffracted light 3b composed of a substantially parallel pencil of rays by the 20 hologram combiner 6 having a function as a lens element, and then enters the user's eye E. External light 8a of the view 8 is transmitted through the hologram combiner 6, and then enters the user's eye E as transmitted light 8b. Therefore, 25 the user can infinitely observe a flat virtual image 9 formed in accordance with the display light 3a emitted from the LCD 3 while superimposing it on the view 8 of the 30 outside.

[0018]

Then, the advantages of the HMD 1 employed in the first embodiment will be described.

(1) The exit end face 4b of the FOP 4 serves as the intermediate image plane, and this eliminates the need for forming an intermediate image plane by the use of a lens system. Furthermore, since the LCD 3, the FOP 4, and the hologram combiner 6 can be incorporated in the helmet 2, it is possible to miniaturize the HMD 1.

(2) Since the display light 3a emitted from the LCD 3 is reduced by FOP 4, the LCD 3 having a large number of pixels can be used, and this makes it possible to display a high-resolution virtual image 9.

(3) The exit end face 4b of the FOP 4 has a shape suitable for correcting aberrations of the virtual image 9, and this makes it possible to observe the flat virtual image 9.

(4) If this HMD 1 is employed as an HMD for use in an airplane, it is possible to observe outside and flight information simultaneously, and if this HMD 1 is employed as an HMD for use in a vehicle, it is possible to observe outside and traffic information simultaneously. This enables the user to exhibit excellent instantaneous information gathering ability during flight or drive.

[0019]

Figs. 3(a) and 3(b) show an HMD of a second embodiment of the present invention, in which Fig. 3(a) is a side view thereof and Fig. 3(b) shows the optical system thereof. This HMD 1 is a goggle-type HMD having a goggle 21 held on a head with a headband 20. And, in an upper portion 21a of the goggle, an LCD 3 equipped with backlight that serves as an image display means for emitting display light 3a perpendicular to a visual axis, and an FOP 4 that emits the display light 3a received from the LCD 3 while reducing it are arranged. The LCD 3 and the FOP 4 are held in the upper portion 21a by a holder 5. On the visual axis Ea, a concave half mirror 62 concave to the user's eye E is arranged as an in-front-of-eye optical means having a magnifying function, and, a half mirror 63 is arranged as an in-

front-of-eye optical means that is obliquely arranged at 45° relative to the user's visual axis Ea, that makes the display light 3a emitted from the FOP 4 reflect toward the concave half mirror 62, and that directs the display light reflected by the concave half mirror 62 to the user's eye E. The concave half mirror 62 is  
5 disposed in an aperture 21b in a front portion of the goggle 21, and the half mirror 63 is held inside of the front portion 21b.

[0020]

In order to be held inside of the goggle 21, the size of the LCD 3, here, is smaller than that of the first embodiment. For example, an LCD having 720,000  
10 pixels ( $600 \times 1200$ ) of which size is 1.4-inch (20 mm  $\times$  28 mm) is used.

[0021]

The FOP 4 is made by bundling 19,800,000 of optical fibers having the diameters of 6  $\mu\text{m}$  in its incident side and 2  $\mu\text{m}$  in its exit side, of which taper ratio is 3:1. The FOP 4 has an incident end face 4a closely attached to the LCD 3 of  
15 which size is identical to that of the LCD 3, i.e. 20 mm  $\times$  28 mm, and has the exit end face 4b of which size is 6.6 mm  $\times$  9.4 mm. As in the first embodiment, the exit end face 4b is formed as a distorted surface so that an observer can observe a flat virtual image 9.

[0022]

20 Then, the operation of the HMD 1 employed in the second embodiment will be explained below. If an image signal is fed to the LCD 3 from an unillustrated image feeder, the LCD 3 emits, in accordance with backlight, display light 3a corresponding to the image signal. The display light 3a is conveyed by the FOP 4 and focused on the exit end face 4b as an intermediate image. The intermediate  
25 image formed on the exit end face 4b becomes divergent light and enters the half mirror 63. Thereafter, the reflected light 3c is reflected from the half mirror 63 and enters the concave half mirror 62 having a magnifying function. Thereafter, a portion thereof becomes focused light 3d upon being reflected, then passes through the half mirror 63, and then enters the user's eye E as transmitted light 3e. The  
30 external light 8a of the view 8 passes through the concave half mirror 62a and the

half mirror 63, and then enters the user's eye E as transmitted light 8b. Therefore, the observer can infinitely observe a flat virtual image 9 formed in accordance with the display light 3a emitted from the LCD 3 while superimposing it on the view 8 of the outside.

5 [0023]

Then, an HMD employed in a third embodiment of the present invention will be explained below. The HMD used in the third embodiment is similar to the HMD 1 in the first embodiment shown in Fig. 1 with exception that it achieves projection of color images. In other respects, the construction here is the same as 10 in the first embodiment. The third embodiment uses a color LCD for emitting display light of three primary colors, namely red (R), green (G), and blue (B), and uses a hologram combiner 6 corresponding to the three primary colors R, G, and B. The hologram combiner 6 corresponding to the three primary colors R, G, and B 15 can be manufactured in the following manner. That is, in the hologram-film-manufacturing device 10 shown in Fig. 2, instead of the He-Ne laser 11, for recording a hologram, a helium-neon laser (632.8 nm) is used for R, a YAG-SHG laser (532 nm) is used for G, and an argon laser (488 nm) is used for B. According to the third embodiment, it is possible to obtain a small-sized display but that nevertheless offers color images.

20 [0024]

It is to be understood that the present invention may be practiced in any other manner than is specifically described in the embodiments. For example, in the construction shown in Fig. 3, it is possible to eliminate the concave half mirror 62, and, instead, the half mirror 63 is obliquely arranged at 45° relative to the visual 25 axis Ea in order to reflect the display light 3a emitted from the FOP 4 toward the user's eye E. In the above-mentioned embodiment, a see-through type HMD is described; however, a close-type HMD may be used instead. In this case, a light-shielding sheet may be applied to the outside face of a substrate (e.g. the face opposite to which the display light from the LCD enters) for preventing external 30 light from entering the user's eye, and it is also possible to cover the whole

substrate with other member including a helmet, a goggle, or the like. In the first embodiment, a hologram film is formed on the outside face of the substrate; however, it can be formed on the inside face thereof.

[0025]

## 5 [Advantages of the Invention]

As described above, according to the present invention, by using optical fibers, it is possible to obtain a desired intermediate image plane without using a lens system, and this helps miniaturize HMDs. Furthermore, since the display light emitted from the image display means is reduced by the bundle of optical 10 fibers, an image display means having a large number of pixels can be used, and this makes it possible to display a high-resolution virtual image. As a result, it is possible to readily achieve projection of color images.

## [Brief Description of the Drawings]

15 [Fig. 1] Diagrams illustrating an HMD of a first embodiment of the present invention, in which (a) is a side view thereof and (b) shows the optical system thereof.

[Fig. 2] A diagram illustrating the outline of the construction of a hologram-film-manufacturing device used in the first embodiment of the present 20 invention.

[Fig. 3] Diagrams illustrating an HMD of a second embodiment of the present invention, in which (a) is a side view thereof and (b) shows the optical system thereof.

[Fig. 4] A diagram illustrating a conventional HMD.

## 25 [Reference Numerals]

1	Head-Mounted Display (HMD)
2	Helmet 2
2a	Front Portion
3	Liquid Crystal Display (LCD)
30 3a	Display Light

	3b	Diffracted Light
	3c	Reflected Light
	3d	Focused Light
	3e	Transmitted Light
5	4	Fiber Optics Plate (FOP)
	4a	Incident End Face
	4b	Exit End Face
	5	Holder
	6	Hologram Combiner
10	7	Attaching Member
	8	View
	8a	External Light
	8b	Transmitted Light
	9	Virtual Image
15	10	Hologram-Film-Manufacturing Device
	11	He-Ne Laser
	12A, 12B, 12C	Mirrors
	13	Half Mirror
	14A, 14B	Magnifying Lenses
20	15	Collimator Lens
	20	Head Band
	21	Goggle
	21a	Upper Portion
	21b	Aperture
25	21b	Front Portion
	40	Optical Fiber
	60	Substrate
	60a	Principal Surface
	61	Hologram Film
30	61a	First Optical Axis

GP-337IDS

61b            Second Optical Axis  
62            Concave Half Mirror  
63            Half Mirror  
E              Eye  
5 H            Head